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C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 000645

SIPDIS

DEPT FOR ISN/RA (RMONGIELLO, MBEDKE, AND BHEIDLBERG)

E.O. 12958: DECL: 09/20/2019

TAGS: [KNNP](#) [MNUC](#) [PARM](#) [IAEA](#) [IR](#) [PREL](#) [AORC](#) [ZA](#)

SUBJECT: ZAMBIA RELUCTANT TO JOIN CHORUS ON IRAN

REF: STATE 95073

Classified By: DCM Michael Koplovsky for reasons 1.4(b) and (d)

(C) The Zambian Government (GRZ) is unlikely to deliver public messages on Iran at the UNGA opening session. According to Zambian Foreign Ministry Permanent Secretary Tens Kapoma, the GRZ will take a subtle approach, communicating reftel messages in private meetings "as friends." Kapoma acknowledged the need for a diplomatic solution but showed little concern about Iran's nuclear program and its non-compliance with international obligations. His lukewarm reaction and lack of any sense of urgency on this and other occasions is a fairly accurate indication of GRZ policy, which aims for improved relations with -- rather than isolation of -- the Iranian Government.

BOOTH